

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



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**Unclaimed Rare Coins, Jewelry, and Unique Items for Auction**

**OLYMPIA, Wash.**, Feb 11, 2004 — Rare coins, silverware, jewelry, stamps and World War II memorabilia are among the 1,100 items up for bid at the Department of Revenue's upcoming Unclaimed Safe Deposit Box Auction.

The auction will take place Feb. 25 and 26 at the James G. Murphy Company's auction facility in Kenmore.

New this year is the capability to bid on these items live online at <http://www.icollectorlive.com>. An online catalog is also available for review at <http://www.murphyauction.com>.

The entire array of abandoned items can be previewed from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on February 24 and the auction begins at 10 a.m. on February 25. The auction house is located at 18226 68th Avenue NE in Kenmore.

The auction includes many interesting items, such as part of the captain's log from the Lusitania, an American passenger ship later sunk by a German submarine in WWI, Carson City silver dollars, a platinum diamond ring worth at least \$8,000, gold and silver bullion, and field and dress daggers with German WWII insignia.

Cash or cashier's checks are the only form of payment accepted. Personal or business checks will only be accepted with a bank letter of guarantee.

Each year, the Department of Revenue receives abandoned safe deposit box contents from banks and credit unions around the state. Items from these boxes are turned over to the state if the

owner hasn't paid rent on the boxes for five years and all attempts to contact the renter are unsuccessful.

Department staff attempt to contact owners through letters, advertisements, and more advanced location techniques. But the Department is required to sell the abandoned contents at public auction within five years of receiving the unclaimed property if the owner does not come forward.

The Department sets up accounts for owners with net proceeds from the auction. The owners may file claims at any time.

"Most people rent safe deposit boxes for privacy and security, but they should make sure they include a record of the box in their estate papers at home," Department spokesman Patrick Tate advised. "This will help their heirs recover the contents."

Tate also encouraged the public to check to see if the state is holding any unclaimed property for them by visiting the Department of Revenue's Internet home page at <http://ucp.dor.wa.gov>. The Department of Revenue has returned more than \$200 million in unclaimed property to Washington residents in the last forty-five years.

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